

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action of October 9, 2007, in the above-referenced patent application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-27 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are independent.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,696 (“Saito”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,133,847 (“Yang”).

The Office Action’s Response to Applicant’s Arguments

In response to Applicant’s arguments, the instant Office Action (page 10, line 14 – page 11, line 1) asserts that “**Applicant also argued that Saito does not teach However, the examiner relied on Yang for these features**” (emphasis added by the Examiner). This appears to be a response to Applicant’s previously-filed arguments dated February 28, 2007, not to Applicant’s arguments filed October 9, 2007. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Claims Amendments

Dependent claims 5, 15 and 22 have been amended to recite that obtaining information from said first devices comprises obtaining a first set of information from one of said first devices, and using each reference in a user interface description to communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access the associated information for each corresponding device comprises accessing a second set of information stored in the corresponding device, the first set of information being a subset of the second set of information. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Rejection of the claims 1-27 is respectfully traversed because, for at least the following reasons, the references, whether considered separately or in combination, do not show or suggest all of the claimed limitations.

The claimed invention is directed to user interfaces in a network. Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 each require, in part, that generating the user interface and utilizing the user interface involve at least two steps and two sets of information: (i) one step involves generating the user interface and is based on a first set of information, *i.e.*, the “obtained information,” and (ii) another step involves utilizing the user interface by using a reference therein to “communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access” a second set of information, *i.e.*, the “associated information” stored in the corresponding device.

By contrast, Saito and Yang, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest at least the above-mentioned limitations (i) and (ii).

The instant Office Action (page 4, lines 1-3) asserts that Saito teaches using reference information obtained in the appliances to communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access the associated information stored in said corresponding device. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Indeed, the above assertions contradict the assertions made in page 4, lines 5-6 of the instant Office Action: *Saito teaches all the information of the appliances is stored in public network beforehand as a single set of information.* Indeed, Fig. 7 of Saito, or the remainder of the disclosure of Saito, does not show or suggest the claimed “accessing the associated information stored in the corresponding device.” Rather, Saito teaches that the information about the home automation network 212 is stored in the configuration ROM of the PC 210. Information about different appliances is stored in different sections in the configuration

ROM. For example, information about the air conditioner service is stored in the configuration ROM at section 235, and information about the microwave oven is stored in the configuration ROM at section 236 (see, e.g., col. 21, lines 50-60 of Saito). Thus, Saito fails to show or suggest at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations: “communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access” a second set of information, *i.e.*, the “associated information” stored in the corresponding device. More specifically, Saito teaches that the information associated with the device is *not* “stored in the corresponding device” as claimed, but rather is stored in a separate computer, and the same set of information stored at the computer is later accessed.

The instant Office Action (page 5, lines 6-8) further asserts that Yang discloses generating the control user interface including device data corresponding to said corresponding device using the accessed information stored in said corresponding device. However, it is unclear to Applicant from this assertion whether the instant Office Action intends to interpret Yang as disclosing the above-mentioned claimed limitations (ii). Applicant respectfully submits that, Yang also fails to show or suggest at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations (ii), and fails to supply that which Saito lacks.

More specifically, similar to Saito discussed above, in the system of Yang, *all* the information of the appliances is downloaded *beforehand* as a *single set* of information, and such a single set of information is *stored in the remote itself*. Specifically, in Yang when the remote 100 accesses the memory 120, the *same* set of information is accessed in the memory 120.

Thus, the *downloading* of information to the memory in Yang is not the same as the claimed “obtaining” information, and the *accessing* memory of Yang is not the same as the claimed “accessing the associated information stored in the corresponding device.” The downloaded information in Yang is not equivalent to the claimed “obtained information” or the claimed accessed “associated information.” In Yang, all the information is stored in the memory

of the controller. By contrast, the claimed limitations require one step that involves generating the user interface and is based on a first set of information, *i.e.*, the “obtained information,” and another step that involves utilizing the user interface by using a reference therein to “communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access” a second set of information, *i.e.*, the “associated information” stored in the corresponding device.

Referring to col. 5, line 33 through col. 6, line 58 of Yang (relied upon by the instant Office Action), Yang teaches:

... FIG. 2B illustrates the same embodiment for user interface 140 as was discussed in FIG. 2A, ... As such, the remote control device can be configured to control different appliances by utilizing programming software **downloaded** to the remote control device and accessed by utilizing an interface control signal received from the appliance to be controlled. ... (Emphasis added).

From the above passage, it is further clear that Yang teaches downloading all the information to the controller, similar to Saito discussed above, and thus, is distinctly different from the claimed “accessing the associated information stored in the corresponding device” as claimed.

In summary, both Saito and Yang teach downloading a single set of information, storing the same set of information in a PC or a controller, *i.e.*, in a place other than the individual appliances, and later accessing the same set of information stored in the PC or the controller. There is no need in Saito and Yang to further “access the associated information stored in said corresponding device” after “obtaining information” as claimed, as all the information needed in Saito and Yang is downloaded and stored. It is noted however that such downloaded information may not be up to date, nor is there a requirement by Saito or Yang for such downloaded information to be up to date.


In view of the above, Saito and Yang, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the claimed invention as recited in independent claims 1, 11, and 21 of the present application. Thus, independent claims 1, 11, and 21 of the present application are patentable over Saito and Yang for at least the reasons set forth above. Dependent claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-27 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Dependent claims 5, 15 and 20 have been amended as described above, and thus should be allowable for at least the additional limitations. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-27 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn, and all of the claims be allowed. Accordingly, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful to the further prosecution of this case, Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

 2/5/08

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